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FLOOR DEBATE

May 2, 2001

LB 305

would you like to take a brief moment and just kind of outline what your amendment does and then we'll begin debate on it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes. And, Mr. President, I want to be very cooperative with the Chair's recommendation that I take a brief moment. This is a bill, I mean this is an amendment that would strike the sales tax provision from LB 305. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Debate on the Chambers amendment? Senator Chambers, followed by Senators Tyson, Raikes, Suttle.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, there are a few other items that I want to talk about with reference to incidence occurring in the Omaha Public Schools to show why I think this bill should not be enacted, if there is some benefit that goes to a Class V school district, which is Omaha. But this amendment is one that relates to the question of equity in taxation. I have never thought that a sales tax was a good tax, but since it's with us and there is not a likelihood that it will be repealed, I want to be sure that there is no increase in that tax. Yesterday, I tried to lower the tax to 4.5 percent and I failed, miserably, but not surprisingly. Then I tried a maneuver to reduce the tax by an additional half percent, to 4 percent, thinking that if I was willing to sacrifice an entire half percent of the tax my colleagues would agree with me and accept that amendment, which my colleagues chose not to do. That brings me now to the amendment that is before us which would strike the sales tax increase that is envisioned in this bill the way it is drafted at present. The sales tax is regressive, the same rate must be paid by all regardless of their ability to pay. It is very ironic to me that teachers who are crying so loudly, whose supporters are crying so loudly, whose advocates are advocating so zealously, want to bring a tax increase on those least able to pay it. And why do they want to do it? They say that a teacher making \$33,000 a year, to start, is not making enough money to get along. So what do they decide to do? Tax those who make even less. Now "Pandora" has chastised me twice on this floor for going the wrong direction on these types of issues. On the loan forgiveness program the law allows a